

Aviation Safety and Training for Forest Health Protection Employees

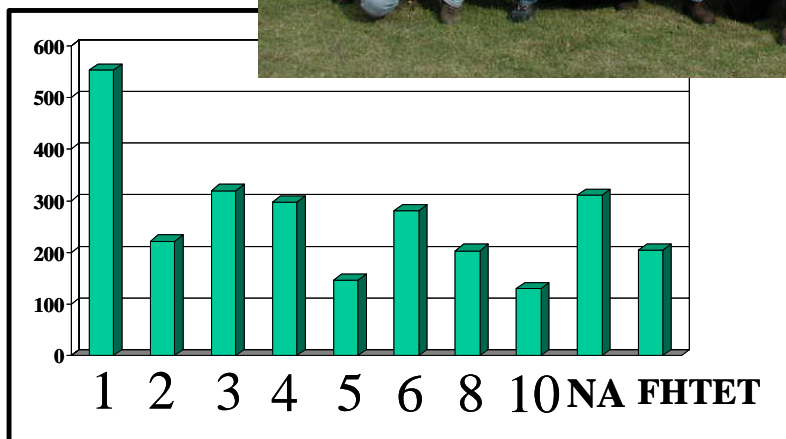


The Forest Health Protection Aviation Program

The Forest Health Protection (FHP) Aviation Program uses primarily fixed-wing aircraft. The majority of flight hours (2700 in 2001) were for **aerial sketchmap surveys** and **aerial photography**. FHP also contracts aircraft for **aerial spraying** for insect suppression, eradication, spray trials, and study/research projects.

Each FHP Region and Area has an appointed **Unit Aviation Officer (UAO)**, who serves as the primary aviation contact for that unit, and a **National Aviation Safety Manager**, who provides aviation and aerial survey expertise and field support for safety and training. Personnel in these organizations are members of the **Aerial Survey Working Group**, an interagency and State cooperator group that works closely with FHP Directors to ensure the safety and quality of aerial survey programs.

Attendees of the 2002 Aerial Survey Working Group meeting.



Total hours flown in 2001 by FHP Units

Responsibility

The education and training of personnel at all organizational levels is the responsibility of management. Aviation users, supervisors, and managers must be knowledgeable of the inherent hazards of aviation operations. Training is essential for employees whose operations are performed in the high-risk environments typically encountered in agency programs and projects. Increasing employee awareness of agency policy, procedures, and safe practices must receive high priority. Aviation training, whether basic safety, specialized, or management, is a method to increase this awareness and a key to meeting this goal. [Interagency Aviation Training Education, Qualification, and Currency System (IAT).]

04 - RESPONSIBILITY

04.1 – Line Officers. “It is the responsibility of line officers to provide for the health, safety, and training of employees. Line officers provide professional leadership and guidance to employees.”

04.2 – First-Line Supervisors. “It is the responsibility of first-line supervisors to identify job-related hazards and to eliminate

potential causes of accidents, injuries, and illnesses at worksites to the best of their ability-.” (Health and Safety Code Handbook, 6709.11)

For more information, contact:

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Training Opportunities

Forest Health Protection (FHP) is committed to the safety of its aviators and the success of its missions, and to meeting all **Interagency Aviation Training (IAT)** requirements. Current training opportunities, include:

Basic Aviation Training

COP = Chief of Party or Flight Manager. *Video and discussion.*

Interagency Aviation Training

ACE = Aviation Conference and Education. *Week-long session offered twice annually. Provides many of the modules required in IAT for aviation positions.*

Forest Health Protection Training

- **AS2M:** Aerial Survey Aviation Safety and Management. *Primarily for sketchmappers and aerial photographers. Four-day sessions are offered annually to help attendees meet IAT requirements for the position, Fixed-wing Manager – Special Use, Aerial Observer.*
- **Task Book:** *New FHP sketchmappers complete a task book of guidelines that provides them and their trainers with the necessary skills for the position, Fixed-wing Manager – Special Use, Aerial Observer.*
- **Workshops:** *Many FHP members and their State cooperators hold annual pre-season workshops on safety, survey methodology, and local information.*
- **OJT:** On the Job Training and Mentoring in flight. *Aerial sketchmapping is a skill that takes many hours of practical work outside the classroom. At these sessions, trainees conduct aerial surveys under the guidance of a journey level observer.*

The Interagency Aviation Training Education, Qualification, and Currency System sets aviation training standards for Natural Resource Agency personnel. IAT was developed under the direction of the Aviation Management Council.

FHP aviation positions listed in the IAT System:

- Agency Administrator (*FHP Directors*)
- Aviation Management/Technical Specialist (*Program Manager*)
- Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) (*Contract Administrators*)
- Fixed-wing Manager – Special Use (*Aerial Surveyor*)
- Flight Crew Member (*Trainee or second observer*)
- Passenger (*Anyone onboard an aircraft*)
- Project Aviation Manager (*Aerial spraying or remote sensing*)
- National Aviation Safety Manager
- Supervisor (*First or second line managers who usually do not fly*)
- Unit Aviation Officer (*Regional or Area FHP UAO*)

For training requirements for these positions, go to <http://iat.nifc.gov/position.asp>

Forest Health Protection Unit Aviation Officers:

Tim McConnell	National Aviation Safety Manager
Dan Zimmerman	Northeastern Area
Marc Roberts	St Paul Field Office
Rod Whiteman	Morgantown Field Office
Bill Frament	Durham Field Office
Kathy Matthews	Regions One and Four
Erik Johnson	Region Two
Bobbe Fitzgibbon	Region Three
Bill Woodruff	Region Five
Dave Bridgwater	Region Six
Rusty Rhea	Region Eight
Dustin Wittwer	Region Ten

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